

Summering

for a Summer Job?

Although a large number of teens are unemployed, chances of getting a summer job are better this year.

Guess what group can claim the highest unemployment rate in Utah? Teenagers. In 2010, roughly one-fifth of all teens were unemployed. Ouch! Compare that figure to the jobless rate for folks my age—only 5 percent. In other words, if you're a teenager looking for a part-time or summer job—realize that you are going to face some stiff competition.

Fortunately, Utah's economy is starting to grow new jobs. So, your chances of landing that summer job are much better than last year. Plus, there's a lot of turnover in the types of jobs that hire young people, so your odds just keep improving.

Where to look?

What types of businesses will most likely be hiring teenagers? Well, the data says that 30 percent of workers 18 years and under work in just one industry. Yes, you've probably guessed it—food services. When you're young with not a lot of experience, restaurants and the local fast food joint provide a likely source of employment. Another 20 percent of young people work in what we call "retail trade." That just means stores where people buy stuff—like Target or a clothes store. In other words, about half of you will work in preparing food and/or selling other goods.

However, keep in mind that workers under 18 work in every industry. So don't think you're stuck slinging burgers or pushing those cash register keys. The recreation industry also hires a large number of young people. Even local governments hire a significant number of teenagers for landscaping, lifeguarding duties, etc.

And, working for a "temp" agency is also a possibility. You just might have to search a little harder to find those types of jobs.

What will you get paid?

Because most of you have very little job experience, the types of jobs you'll be able to land are going to pay relatively low wages. Sorry. It's just an economic fact of life. Check out the chart that's with this article to see what kind of wage you can expect.

What to do?

Now, I don't have much space in this article. So what's the most important advice I can give you for your job search?

- Start looking for a job NOW. Many employers have already started to look for summer hires.
- Tell everyone you know (friends, parents, aunts, uncles, teachers, church leaders, neighbors, etc.) that you are looking for work. This is the best way to find a job.
- Remember the competition will be tough. Make sure you're prepared. Go to the following web

site for tips on how to dress, interview, prepare a resume, and look for work: <http://justforyouth.utah.gov/employment.htm>

- Look for work online:
 - <https://jobs.utah.gov>
 - <http://www.careerbuilder.com>
 - <http://www.monster.com>
 - <http://www.govtjobs.com>
- Hit the streets. Apply for employment at places that typically hire people under 20—fast food restaurants, stores, landscaping businesses, motels/hotels, etc.

What's the payoff?

Of course, there are lots of benefits that arise from summer employment—not the least of which is money. But, also remember that working now can help you decide what type of career you want (or really don't want). Plus, the only way to get experience to help you get a better job is, well, to get some experience. ⓘ

Utah Wages

	Inexperienced Hourly Wage*		Inexperienced Hourly Wage*
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	\$7.60	Hosts and Hostesses	\$7.40
Animal Trainers	\$8.00	Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	\$7.90
Baggage Porters and Bellhops	\$7.40	Janitors and Cleaners	\$7.60
Cashiers	\$7.40	Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	\$7.90
Child Care Workers	\$7.50	Library Assistants, Clerical	\$8.00
Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment	\$7.50	Lifeguards	\$7.40
Fast Food Workers	\$7.40	Locker Room Attendants	\$7.30
Construction Laborers	\$9.50	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$7.70
Fast Food Cooks	\$7.40	Mail Clerks, Except Postal Service	\$8.90
Short Order Cooks	\$7.40	Motion Picture Projectionists	\$7.50
Counter and Rental Clerks	\$8.10	Nonfarm Animal Caretakers	\$7.40
Counter Attendants	\$7.40	General Office Clerks	\$8.50
Couriers and Messengers	\$9.90	Packers and Packagers, Hand	\$7.60
Data Entry Keyers	\$9.60	Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$8.20
Demonstrators and Product Promoters	\$8.60	Retail Salespersons	\$7.80
Dining Room Attendants	\$7.40	Service Station Attendants	\$7.90
Dishwashers	\$7.40	Ushers, Lobby Attendants, & Ticket Takers	\$7.40
Food Preparation Workers	\$7.30	Waiters and Waitresses	\$7.30

* Represents the wage for new workers entering the occupation; average of the lowest one-third of wages.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services; published June 2010.

